



TESTIMONY OF  
MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL  
MIDDLETOWN, CT  
SUBMITTED March 21, 2013

**SB 968, An Act Concerning Reports Of Nurse Staffing Levels**

Middlesex Hospital appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony concerning **SB 968, An Act Concerning Reports Of Nurse Staffing Levels**.

While we appreciate all efforts to provide the highest quality of care through adequate and effective nurse staffing levels, we believe this bill would simply create an unnecessary administrative burden with no direct effect on the delivery of safe, high quality patient care. Capturing this data would require far too many additional resources and would prove to be inconsistent and flawed for purposes of comparison and benchmarking. Therefore, Middlesex Hospital opposes SB 968 and its burdensome reporting requirements.

We have always been committed to providing the highest quality care to achieve optimal patient outcomes at Middlesex. For these efforts, we have been recognized by HealthGrades, Thompson Reuters, Consumer Reports, the American Nurses Credentialing Center, and many other national organizations as one of the safest, most reliable care destinations. With such awards as the Top 100 designation and Magnet Hospital accreditation, we have consistently exceeded benchmarks and standards for care delivery and staffing. We are committed to sustaining this culture of safety and employing high reliability strategies and evidence-based practices to prevent patient care complications and ensure the best patient experience.

With the mandated reporting outlined in SB 968, which focuses on a gross numeric staff-to-patient ratio, we would receive no benefit in terms of insight or benchmark for improvements. We subscribe to several national databases that allow for much more detailed and effective benchmarking as it is, and this would only create another, less effective layer of reporting.

Nursing professionals at Middlesex Hospital continuously monitor this data on a unit-specific level, and assess patient care needs with a wide range of factors that go beyond numbers and ratios to make staffing decisions. This is not simple math and takes a trained nursing expert to accomplish effectively and safely. The elements considered are not captured by simply counting the total number of patients and the total number of staff at any level.

We urge you not to support SB 968, and thank you for consideration of our position.

For any additional information or questions, please do not hesitate to contact Jacquelyn Calamari, Vice President, Patient Care Services, at (860) 358-6460.